MAR 30 1961

Approved For Release 2000/04/13 : CIA-RDP70-00058

[redacted]

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL MARCH 30, 1961

UPI-101

(BIRCH) 25X1A

WASHINGTON--SENATE REPUBLICAN WHIP THOMAS H. KUCHEL, CALIF., AND SEN. THOMAS J. DODD, D-CONN., TODAY DENOUNCED THE ANTI-COMMUNIST JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY AS "OUTRAGEOUS." KUCHEL CALLED FOR A SENATE INVESTIGATION OF THE ACTIVITIES.

DODD, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE, AND KUCHEL TOOK TO THE SENATE IN SUCCESSION TO ATTACK THE [redacted] LED BY ROBERT WELCH. THEY PARTICULARLY CITED WELCH'S ATTACKS ON FORMER PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER AND OTHER OFFICIALS.

IN THE HOUSE, REP. HENRY S. REUSS, D-WIS., SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES HAD DECLINED TO INVESTIGATE THE SOCIETY ON THE GROUNDS IT HAS NO AUTHORITY TO DO SO.

REUSS, WHO REQUESTED SUCH AN INVESTIGATION, SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS E. WALTER, D-PA., TURNING DOWN THE IDEA. WALTER SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD RECEIVED MANY LETTERS OF COMPLAINT ABOUT THE SOCIETY, BUT NONE CONTAINED MATERIAL INFORMATION INDICATING THAT THE COMMITTEE COULD OR SHOULD LAUNCH AN INVESTIGATION.

WALTER SAID "IT IS NOT THE FUNCTION OF THIS COMMITTEE, OF COURSE, TO SERVE AS A SOUNDING BOARD--EITHER FOR AN ORGANIZATION AGAINST INDIVIDUALS, OR FOR INDIVIDUALS AGAINST AN ORGANIZATION."

IN URGING A SENATE INVESTIGATION OF THE ORGANIZATION, KUCHEL ACCUSED WHICH HE CALLED "FANTASTIC AND INCREDIBLE LIBEL" FOR ACCUSING EISENHOWER OF BEING A "CARD-CARRYING COMMUNIST."

"GOOD GOD," THE CALIFORNIA REPUBLICAN EXCLAIMED. "SHOULD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT LET THAT KIND OF SPLEEN BE POURED ON ONE WHO GIVES HIS WHOLE LIFE TO THE CAUSE...OF FREEDOM?"

Approved For Release 2000/04/13 : CIA-RDP70-00058R000200150099-5